

The GARZETTE

December, 1999

Volume 10, Issue 10



Happy Holidays

Inside this issue:

ARES Report	2
Meeting Minutes	4
My Start In Ham Radio	5
On The Air With KF4OKA	6
Home, Home On Duh Range	7
Education Update	8
News From The League	9

The President's Pen

By David Adcock, KA4KKF

Can you believe this? Thanksgiving is here and the weather is great. Two days before Thanksgiving and I'm outside putting up an antenna. We'll pay for this nice weather sooner or later.

The December meeting will be our annual Christmas Party. I hope to see you there on December 10th. There should be a great time had by all. There will be food and dancing and gifts for everyone. This gives every **GARS** member a chance to unwind and socialize with other GARS members.

January will bring us to the dreaded Y2K time when everyone will be working instead of partying. ARES will be

out in full force. If you can help, give KM4Z a call. ARES will need a lot of people to relieve the initial group, if things get screwed up. I'm on standby that night and probably will have to go in to work a help desk. Hopefully things will not be as bad as everyone thinks it will be.

The annual Techfest will be upon us soon. I hope to see you there.

GARS Techfest Just Around The Corner

By Ike Chapman, KE4GYM

Mark your calendars and set aside some time on January 29th, 2000 to come out and attend the third annual **GARS** Techfest.

The Techfest will be held at Central Baptist Church on Gwinnett Drive

in Lawrenceville, the same location as our club meetings.

Techfest Chairman Barry Zoll, N1TOQ reports that plans are preceding nicely for the booths and programs again this year.



See N1TOQ for details about participating. If you want to see what it is all about, come and join us for the Techfest. It's fun.

The January meeting will also be when we ask for volunteers to run as club officers. The election will be at the February meeting. The Executive meeting will be January 10th at 1900 hours at the Golden Coral. The Newsletter Editor's job will be up this February. If you want to learn about how to publish the newsletter, give KE4GYM a call. He can give you pointers on what it takes and how to make it an easy task.

I'm keeping it short this month so have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

As in the past years, there'll be the chili and cornbread cookoff as part of the event. For more information see the January newsletter and the **GARS** website.



The GARZETTE

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The GARZETTE is published each month with the assistance of Joe Biddle, AD4PZ and Karl Phillips, K4GZZ who interface with the printer. Larry Thill, W4LJT and Jack Herndon, WU4H do the final production work on *The GARZETTE* by folding, labeling, stamping and getting the end product to the Post Office each month. Many thanks to each of them and all article contributors.

Deadline for submissions is the 24th of each month for inclusion in the following month's issue.

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ARES Report

By Lowry Rouse, KM4Z

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I hope Santa is good to all. I'm asking Santa for an eventless Y2K eve on Dec. 31st myself (hi hi)!

By the time you read this article, our Dec. 2nd drill with the county will be over and probably our monthly ARES meeting on Dec. 14th only a day or two away. This months meeting will be our last chance to talk about our operating plan for New Years Eve. Frank Daniell has updated me some of the plans for setting up our stations in county facilities.

Item #1: I first said that you decide whether to set up operating point in your car or go inside the facility to communicate. He definitely wants it inside the facility unless it's just not possible to do that. The public will feel more comfortable coming inside the station rather than going up to someone in a car they don't know asking for help.

Item #2: I also said that if the fire or police unit were called out (that is if county communications were out) that you would probably go with them. That is not the case. We need to be present at all times providing communications for the public. If county communications do fail and we need to go to a disaster site, then we must go in our own vehicles (insurance reasons) and will have to go at normal speed (i.e. No police escort or any emergency operator privileges granted because we're ARES volunteers). Simply put, we are to stay at assigned location no matter what. If a communicator needs to be at an emergency scene, one will be dispatched from our stand-by pool of ARES members.

Another change that we discussed was the number of ARES people allowed in the EOC. We had



planned for four but have been restricted to two (maybe three but that is still uncertain at present time) due to the very crowded conditions in the EOC (Emergency Operations Center).

Here are some guidelines for communicating during the net on New Years Eve or basically any emergency net that may be in progress:

1. Speak calmly at a moderate speed. Don't speak real fast or too slow. Net control needs to have time to make sense out of what you're saying but don't take all day to say it either.
2. Use common everyday terms that everyone will understand. Don't use slang terms.
3. Keep transmission as short as possible. Don't waste time building a watch when all net control wants is the time. (Note: I hope you understand this little saying, if not I'll explain it on the net, hi hi)
4. If net control is already in communication with someone and you have emergency traffic, use the term "Break Break" to alert net control that you have emergency traffic. This term should only be used when it's a life or death; property being destroyed type situation.

(Continued on page 3)

ARES Report

(Continued from page 2)

5. Remember that in a controlled net, the net-control station is boss and follow his/her instructions.
6. During this Y2K net, please don't jokingly pass any traffic that could cause panic if misunderstood by net control or any of the hundreds that may be listening on scanners.
7. An alternate frequency plan with tactical names will be given out via e-mail or a phone call to Y2K participants prior to New Years Eve.
8. If approached by the news media while on duty at a facility, refer all their questions to the facility supervisor (i.e. fire station Captain or Lt.). For an ARES/Ham Radio comment, refer them to Ike Chapman (KE4GYM) our PIO (Public Information Officer). We have to be careful what's said to the public during a sensitive time period like this. Any statement made, as we all know could be taken out of context and used to create rumors or false information that could lead to public panic. This must not happen.
9. Dress appropriately. Do not dress in a para-military style or like you're going on a hunting trip (i.e. camouflage clothing). Do not wear any clothing with patches or insignias referring to security, police, guard, etc. We cannot in any way portray ourselves as police or security officers. Wear slacks, blue jeans, golf type shirt, GARS club shirt, dress shirt T-shirt, etc.

OK, enough for now on that subject. More items may be announced during nets or sent through e-mail.

Thanks to all who will be participating during Y2K Eve. The fact that you're community minded enough to use this New Years Eve time period to help protect our county will not go unnoticed or

unappreciated. Out of the group that participates in the Y2K Eve activation, a name will be drawn to receive a wonderful gift. While trying to determine a proper gift, my thoughts went to a Yaesu FT-1000, Icom IC-756, Caribbean cruise, an autographed picture of myself, or a thousand dollars. Then it came to me. The perfect gift would be an ARES safety vest (without call letters of course). So, one lucky person will receive a vest during the January ARES monthly meeting.

Let's all have a wonderful holiday season and remember, prime time tornado season is only 3 months away. There will still be "stuff" to do after Y2K has come and gone. See you New Years Eve, don't forget!

Best Regards,
Lowry Rouse
KM4Z

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Random Ramblings

"My work is a game, a very serious game." -- M. C. Escher

"The capacity of human beings to bore one another seems to be vastly greater than that of any other animal." --H. L. Mencken

"Yesterday I was a dog. Today I'm a dog. Tomorrow I'll probably still be a dog. Sigh! There's so little hope for advancement." -- Snoopy

"The reason there are two senators for each state is so that one can be the designated driver." -- Jay Leno

"Skill without imagination is craftsmanship and gives us many useful objects such as wickerwork picnic baskets. Imagination without skill gives us modern art."

--Tom Stoppard

♦♦♦

GARS

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David Adcock, KA4KKF (770) 271-9398

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Jack Herndon, WU4H (770)995-0438

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Open

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Bill Brandon, WW4BB (770)554-9998

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Christmas Party Chairman

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Digital Radio Chairman

Open

QSL Manager

Ade Wirth, W4ADE (770)614-3743

Webmaster

Ike Chapman, KE4GYM (770)339-8123

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Meeting Minutes

By Mike Swiderski, K4HBI

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society
November 18, 1999
Meeting Minutes
as recorded by Mike, K4HBI,
in the absence of Jack, WU4H

David Adcock, KA4KKF, President, called the **GARS** meeting at Central Baptist Church to order at 1936 local time. Club officers present: David Adcock, KA4KKF, President; Rick Morris, KD4VOJ, Vice President; Jeff Cutchins, KF4NBD, Treasurer; and Howie Gould, W4NVF, Activities Manager. Introductions by the officers and attendees lead the way into Joe, AD4PZ, introducing himself as the Membership Chairman and offering applications to perspective members.

Lowry, KM4Z, our ARRL Gwinnett EC, requested additional volunteers to help staff the County Emergency Services locations for greeting Y2K and to provide emergency communication backup should problems arise. Contact Lowry, KM4Z, or Jan and Pat Kelley, KF4TMO and KE4IKC to volunteer.

David introduced the evening's program, "Computer Programming Radios", presenters Larry Thill, W4LJT, and Joe Biddle, AD4PZ. Larry and Joe showed the easy way to program the Kenwood, Yaesu VX5 and VX1, along with the Icom T8A hand held radios for 2 meters. Using computer software and special interconnect cables, the hand-held radios can be programmed for usage (frequency, shift, tone, power, etc.) from files made and stored in the computer. These stored files can also restore the memories you blew away when you fat fingered them little tiny buttons. They also can be used to instantly set up your radio for travel in foreign cities or countries. Well done Larry and Joe.

The October meeting minutes

were accepted as published in *The GARZETTE*.

KF4NBD, Jeff Cutchins, Treasurer, presented the financial status with a current balance of \$6400. Major items included income of \$430 and expenditures of \$500 for the repair of the repeater controller modified by lightning. The Treasurer's report was accepted.

Paul McInnish, K4BET, presented the club with \$184 as proceeds from the club "bone yard" table at the Alford Memorial Ham Fest earlier this month. David, KA4KKF, stated that all material was gone except for one item that is still for sale and available for purchase for \$25, an IBM Selectric Typewriter.

W4NVF, Howie gave the repeater status report stating the three machines and remotes are working fine. Lou, NY4F is working on the remote 440 receiver links and Howie is hopeful they will be on line by the end of the year. The addition of two 2M receiver links is being reviewed. The Lawrenceville main site propane generator transfer panel relay will allow the unit to start but not switch off, this item is being reviewed for Y2K ARES backup use on Dec. 31. Batteries were offered as backup power for the Bogan Road and JCB remote sites.

Barry, N1TOQ, announced that volunteers for both, workers and displayers of technologies were being recruited for "Techfest" to be held January 29, 2000. Sign-up lists were passed around at the meeting for both workers and displayers. Contact Barry for information and offering of services.

Rick, KD4VOJ, reminded us of ticket sales for the **GARS** Holiday Party, December 10 at Suwanee Holiday Inn (Exit 44, I-85). See Anita Morris, KG4AJX, for ticket purchases, \$15 for singles and \$25

for couples.

Paul, K4HCM, stated that flyers are being prepared for both the Techfest and Win's, N1TWX, upcoming classes.

Susan, AF4FO, Net Manager, will be constructing the upcoming 2M net control schedule for the next few months and if there are any others that would like to help, please let Susan know.

Susan, AF4FO, Apparel Manager, suggested that if you want some **GARS** stuff as a Holiday gift, the order must be placed now.

Marty, KE4MLH, 6M Net Manager, says net is coming along, but needs additional check-ins and net control stations.

Tom, K4TJD, announced that he and Gene, KF4NOG, have been the 9 PM Tuesday CW practice session net controls for a while and need relief as they are the only net control stations. Their commitments sometimes do not allow them to be available for the net. They have the means to set people up to do this function, so please help them out. The code is generated by software that will be given to all volunteering net control stations.

Field Day 2000 Chairman, Don, AJ1T, had some additional service certificates and announced that the next Y2K FD meeting will be Tuesday the 23rd and needs volunteers to step forward. Last years results were stated to be 4th place in 8A and 1st in the state.

Win, N1TWX, discussed that the Central Gwinnett High School **GARS** sponsored no code Technician class is planned for January. Discussion of the revision to the question pool following the license restructuring due by the year-end may delay the classes until February.

Robert's, KF4VBR, youth (9-14 years) class at Harmony Grove

(Continued on page 5)

Meeting Minutes

(Continued from page 4)

United Methodist Church in Lilburn started off with 17 students. The remaining 10 students are coming along well.

David, KA4KKF, informed all that he represented **GARS** at a BSA Council meeting. At the meeting, Earl, AF4FG, presented a BSA emblem on a stone plaque to **GARS** for their participation in the October 8-10, Gold Rush Scout Jamboree held at the Sandy Creek Park in Athens, GA. Using the call K2BSA, five amateur radio stations were set up on site to expose the 4000 scouts to the world of amateur radio.

David, KA4KKF, requested a volunteer to become the **GARS** Club Historian to control the materials since the 1976 inception.

Rick, KD4VOJ, reminded us of the **GARS** sponsored Venture Crew, amateur radio theme, scouting group is accepting youth, ages 14-21, and adult volunteers. Please contact any of the registered scout advisors, such as Rick, KD4VOJ; Earl, AF4FG; Victor, W4VEG, etc.

David, KA4KKF, introduced the Membership Chairman, Joe, AD4PZ, who submitted the following applicants for **GARS** membership:

Don La Faver, KL0RP
Bill Van Duynhoven (late renewal), KE4TVA

Steve Bowers, KG4EYD

Ken Johnson, NZ4Q

Lisa Wang, KG4FHI *

Harry Holmes, KG4FBO *

Joshua Holmes, KB4FBP *

Joseph Michalko, KG4FBQ *

* **GARS** Class Graduates

These folks were voted and accepted into the **GARS** "family" by all.

David, KA4KKF, announced the special election of the proposed amendments to the bylaws as pub-

lished in *The Garzette*. The bylaws would require a 2/3 majority of the attending membership for passing. Attendance: Number of **GARS** Members was 60 with also 6 Guests. Therefore 40 votes for the proposal would be required for changing the bylaws. Per the bylaws the proposed changes were read as published in *The Garzette* to the members in attendance by Mike, K4HBI, secretary pro tem for the evening. Three minutes of discussion for each club member was offered, the following expressed themselves to the group: W4NVF, KE4MLH, K4HS, KD4VOJ, K4TJD, KD3GC, WB2OGY, and W4WKP. Ballots were passed out that included a Yes or No choice for the proposal and a place to enter the name of a candidate for "Ham of the Year". The ballots were collected, counted by the officers, and the results stated by David, KA4KKF, were as follows: Accept the Changes? 10 Yes; 46 No. The vote signified no changes to the bylaws.

Howie, W4NVF, Activities Manager, conducted the door prize drawing. Junior, KG4FPQ, won the first prize, a Tee shirt. Paul, K4HCM, and Charlie, KF4KDF, each won a copy of "World Radio". Lowry, KM4Z, won a 1-year subscription to "World Radio" magazine. Aaron, KG4ALB, won the \$25 HRO gift certificate.

David, KA4KKF, after motion and second called the meeting closed and adjourned at 21:36 local.

Respectively submitted Mike Swiderski, K4HBI



Random Ramblings

"If all the cars in the United States were placed end to end, it would probably be Labor Day Weekend."

-- Doug Larson



My Start In Ham Radio

By Karl Phillips, K4GZZ

I got interested in ham radio purely by chance. As an 11 year old kid in Nashville, I came across an old AM short-wave receiver. I would listen to the AM short-wave broadcasts but every once in a while a voice would come in loud and muffled, you know, sort of like the guy was trying to talk with his mouth sewn shut. It was loud.

After this happened a few times, I took my radio, went outside and as I walked down the street it got louder and louder. At this house, high up on a tower was this weird thing shaped like an "X". At it's loudest and most annoying volume, I found myself in the basement area of a house down the street, staring straight into the eyes of a man talking on a microphone and looking at my like, "who are you, and where did you come from?"

That total stranger with the RME 6900 receiver, Heathkit mike and a Heathkit Marauder transmitter, then began to answer my questions about "what in the world is that thing you're talking on, and what is that giant X in the sky"?

I got to know Milton Fannin WA4GZZ, real well. He loaned me the Novice license manual and taught me the code. He helped me get my code speed up to 5 words per minute and gave me the test.

Getting into ham radio turned out to be one of the biggest thrills of my life and it still is. And every once in a while, Milton and I cross paths on 80 meters and just check in with each other to see how we are getting along.

Thanks Milton !!
Karl Phillips - K4GZZ



On The Air With Gordon Anthony, KF4OKA

By Karl Phillips, K4GZZ

This month's ON THE AIR features the "Voice of Rockdale County" - Gordon Anthony, KF4OKA. Gordon was born in Hart County, Georgia and attended Shoal Creek elementary school and Lavonia High School. After high school, Gordon joined the United States Army. After a brief stint with the Army, Gordon worked several odd jobs. He was employed at Sears Roebuck and worked several Christmas seasons during the usual holiday rush. He also honed his mechanical skills by working for several service stations.

In 1963, Gordon went to work for Southeast Radio, dealing in wholesale radio parts. Later, he worked for Orkin Exterminating. Back then, of course, while working for Orkin, nothing "bugged" Gordon. Later, Gordon invested in his own service station and worked for a wrecker service for 10 years. In 1982, Gordon went into business for himself and retired in 1992.

Gordon's experience with Southeast Radio spilled over to an interest in citizens band radio. Later, Gordon met Dale Richardson, W4GCL, who became Gordon's "elmer" and supplied him with a copy of "Now You're Talking." Gordon studied the manual off and on for a good while and in 1996 passed his no-code technician test and became - KF4OKA. Gordon has plans to upgrade, but his obligations in Ham Radio are keeping him pretty busy and he will have to work studying in his busy schedule.

Gordon is a member of three amateur radio clubs in the greater North Georgia area. Gordon is a member of **GARS**, the Alford Memorial Radio Club and the Thomasston Radio Club. Gordon is very active in all three clubs and is, as you can imagine, on the go all the time. We should all congratulate Gordon, as he was just elected by the mem-



Gordon, KF4OKA (right) providing talk-in at the 1998 AMRC Hamfest.

Photo by Brian Siegmund, KF4MWI

bers of the Alford Memorial Radio Club as their next Vice-President for the upcoming year 2000. I guess that would make Gordon Y2K compliant! Gordon is also a member of ARES and plans on being a "rover" in the field come New Years Eve 1999.

Gordon's most famous claim to fame, I guess would be his devotion to "his Net", as daily net control for the Brown Bag Lunch Bunch Net on the 145.45 repeater, every single weekday from 12 noon to approximately 1 PM. Gordon has been the mainstay as net control on that net for the last several years. I've never heard Gordon miss a day. It may have happened, but I don't recall a single day I've checked in that he hasn't been there, slaving over the hot transistors!!

Gordon is especially known on the Cartersville repeater for his attendance on the North Georgia Relief Net and has been formally recognized by certificate that he has checked into that net for 104 weeks in a row. To date, Gordon has checked into that net every session for the last 120 sessions! Time for another certificate, Gordon? This is an unbelievable accomplishment.

Congratulations, Gordon.

Gordon is an avid racing fan and is a regular attendee of races at Rome Speedway and Dixie Speedway. He also assists at the gates at these races.

Along with his mobile activity, Gordon operates an ICOM IC27H, a 9 channel 2 meter rig from his home using a Ringo Ranger for his antenna. Already at his QTH, and ready to go up, will be a 60+ foot tower. The Ringo Ranger, a five element homebrew 2 meter beam, and a dual band Diamond will go on top. Soon, Gordon will put out the call for assistance in getting it in the air and I'd encourage you all to volunteer to help a fellow ham get that thing in the air!

I have known Gordon for about a year now and I've come to know that there's no nicer guy around. He always has a pleasant disposition and is a constant volunteer for ham activities, and he does this with not just one club, but three clubs! I've found Gordon to be just a "good old country boy", a simple man and a very easy guy to like. Be sure to congratulate Gordon on his election as the next VP for the Alford Club and try to stop by 145.45 and check into his daily "Brown Bag Lunch Bunch" net. It was my pleasure to feature Gordon this month and I'll look forward to next months' ON THE AIR feature article. 73 and I hope you all continue to enjoy this great hobby of Ham Radio.

Karl - K4GZZ

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Random Ramblings

"I have not lost my mind - it's backed up on disk somewhere."

-- Unknown

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Home, Home On "Duh" Range

Submitted Anonymously

Who says there's no music on amateur radio? You just have to recognize the tune.
(Music For Lids Only)

SONG TITLE	WHAT YOU HEAR
<i>Somewhere Over "DUH" Rainbow</i>	"Its raining where I am. Is it raining where you are?" (Corresponding parties within sight of each other)
<i>She'll Be Comin' Round "DUH" Mountain</i>	"I'm almost at Exit 40." (2 minutes later) "I'm at Exit 40 now. I'll be at Exit 41 in a minute." Etc.
<i>Play It Again, "DUH"</i>	Repeats himself (or herself). Thinks the argument is made stronger by saying the same thing louder the second (or third) time. You know, says the same thing several times. Like, keeps saying the same thing so you'll understand. Understand?
<i>William "DUH" Overture</i>	Talks real fast and runs words and sentences together especially when giving their callsign.
<i>You Ain't Nuthin' But a Hound "DUH"</i>	Complains and whines about everything.
<i>"DUH" Sound of Silence</i>	Someone sits on their mike button.
<i>"DUH" Sound of Music</i>	Someone sits on their mike button with the broadcast radio on.
<i>American Pie</i>	<p>"Things aren't like they used to be. Why, back when I (choose one) was in school, was in the service, got my first car, got my first license, I used to (choose another one) walk five miles." use an outhouse." clean the latrine." pay a quarter for gas." build my own wires."</p>



Education Update

By Win Jackson, N1TWX

Upcoming Classes

Classes for the Novice and No-Code Technician License will begin on Tuesday, January 17, 2000. The classes will be held at the Central Gwinnett High School from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM for 7 weeks. You can register by calling Mr. Sloan at the GCHS at 770-338-4377 after 3:00 PM on Monday through Friday, or call Win Jackson anytime at 404-869-1347. The class is open to the public, and the cost is \$25 per person for the entire course payable to the CGHS for use of their facility. This course is sponsored by the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society (**GARS**) and will use text material from the American Radio Relay League (ARRL).

Please note: The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) may soon restructure the present Amateur Radio license privileges perhaps by the end of the millennium or early next year. I have been informed from the ARRL that there will be no change to the Technician class theory, however the present proposal would eliminate the Novice class license.

The technical content for passing the Technician Class license remains basically the same, but rather than taking 2 tests, Novice and Technician, you would take the 1 Technician test. Presuming a change does occur, the question pool for the Technician Class will most likely change and the text material format may change accordingly.

I recommend that you do not purchase text material at this time. I will inform you if any change does occur, but for now I see no reason to begin the theory class on basic electronic principles, antenna and feed line, and operating procedures. Regardless of what change may be made; you still must understand the basics.

If you are Internet active, please visit the following sites for the latest information:

<http://www.gars.org>
<http://www.arrl.org>
<http://www.fcc.gov>

Field Day Primer

Here's a great learning opportunity to prepare for Field Day 2000. Start now to learn hands on HF operating techniques.

Ever wonder how

- to work HF equipment?
- to use radios you've never seen before?
- log calls quickly and accurately?
- set the DSP, notch filter, antenna tuner, RIT and XIT controls?

GARS is proud to bring out the really knowledgeable people who have the know how on these subjects. One Saturday each month following the weekly breakfast get together, Howie, W4NVF and others will answer all these questions and more. From 10 AM to 12 noon, one or more rigs hooked up to dummy loads will be available for testing and operating.

Contact Win, N1TWX for schedule information.



Random Ramblings

"If you don't find it in the index, look very carefully through the entire catalogue." -- Sears, Roebuck, and Co., Consumer's Guide, 1897

"Let's have some new clichés."
 -- Samuel Goldwyn



From The Editors Desk

(Continued from page 12)

On the production end, there is a team in place for printing that includes Joe Biddle, AD4PZ and Karl Phillips, K4GZZ at Lanier Worldwide where our printing is done. Then the mail team takes over with Jack Herndon, WU4H and Larry Thill, W4LJT, doing the folding, labeling, and stapling and delivering the finished product to the post office each month.

My first time around, all of these jobs from layout to post office were done by the editor. My successor, Joe, AD4PZ was instrumental in getting the post layout team in place and it's made the job much easier. Those names will probably change in the near future but as with all club functions I'm sure we'll find the right people to step forward and help out with these as well.

Well that's all for now but if you're considering the job, please give me a call and I'll be glad to talk it over with you.



Random Ramblings

"Ninety-eight percent of the adults in this country are decent, hard-working, honest Americans. It's the other lousy two percent that get all the publicity. But then--we elected them."

-- Lily Tomlin

"He who wonders discovers that this in itself is wonder."

-- M. C. Escher

"When someone tells you something defies description, you can be pretty sure he's going to have a go at it anyway."

-- Clyde B. Aster



News From The League

VAST MAJORITY OF HAMS NOT ULS-READY

Even though registration has been available for approximately two years now, most Amateur Radio licensees have yet to register with the FCC's Universal Licensing System. The ULS Task Force reports that, as of mid-November, 682,212 amateurs still have not registered. This figure includes individuals whose licenses have lapsed but remain in the two-year grace period. The FCC recently said approximately 3% of US licensees had registered with the ULS.

The FCC deployed the ULS for the Amateur Service on August 16, 1999. Amateurs must be registered in the ULS in order to file applications with the FCC—including renewals, modifications, and vanity call sign requests.

Meanwhile, the latest "good news/bad news" scenario from the ULS could go something like this: "Dear Amateur: The good news is that we have granted your requested Group C vanity call sign which you sought 10 weeks ago when you were a General class licensee. The bad news is that when we granted your long-awaited vanity call, we also undid the Advanced and Extra class upgrades you accomplished while your vanity was pending. So, congratulations! You're a General once again."

The ULS Task Force says it recently discovered that the bug occurs when several applications are pending (eg, a vanity application and an upgrade application). The FCC is attempting to straighten out the unintended downgrades and says it will have the operator class of affected licensees corrected within a week.

FCC personnel are currently testing the processing for club, military recreation, and RACES applications and hopes to act on pend-

ing applications before the end of the month. Up until now, those applications have been filed on paper and still must be manually keystroked into the ULS prior to processing.

The ULS Task Force also wants amateur applicants to know that if they apply too early for license renewal, their applications will be dismissed. A license renewal must be filed no sooner than within 90 days of expiration, even if coupled with a license modification. This is only an issue for those filing paper applications; the electronic filing system will not let applicants file prematurely.

To register for the ULS, visit <http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/uls> and click on "TIN/Call Sign Registration". Paper registration also is possible. For more information, call toll-free 888-CALL FCC (225-5322).

AMATEUR RESTRUCTURING DETAILS POSSIBLE BY YEAR'S END

Knowledgeable sources in Washington say the amateur license restructuring issue has moved to the front burner at the FCC, and a Report and Order could be released before the end of 1999.

The Amateur Radio community has been awaiting license restructuring—known officially as the 1998 Biennial Regulatory Review of Part 97 (WT Docket 98-143)—for nearly one year now. While no one has mentioned a hard-and-fast date to wrap up the long-awaited proceeding, reports from several sources suggest that the R&O draft is in its final stages and could be complete within a month or so.

During a recent a visit to top FCC officials in Washington, League officials pressed again for early action on the license restructuring rulemaking. They were assured that the issue was not stalled

and that the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau was "working very actively" to move restructuring along.

Whatever its final form—and no one has hinted at that—license restructuring poses significant implications for Amateur Radio and its future direction and growth. On August 10, 1998, the FCC proposed to phase out the Novice and Technician Plus licenses, leaving just four amateur license classes in place—Technician, General, Advanced, and Extra. The Commission also asked the amateur community to express its opinions on Morse code requirements for licensing and testing, but offered no specific recommendations.

At its July 1998 meeting, the ARRL Board of Directors—attempting to get the jump on restructuring—issued its own plan to restyle Amateur Radio. Among other details, the ARRL plan also calls for four license classes and for "refarming" Novice/Tech Plus subbands to provide additional spectrum for higher-class operators. Under the League plan, the Technician license remains unchanged, and the General becomes the entry-level ticket to HF operation. The ARRL proposed Morse code requirements of 5 WPM for General and 12 WPM for Advanced and Extra class.

The restructuring debate generated more than 2200 comments to the FCC, many of them from individual amateurs. Once the FCC approves the Report & Order, a Public Notice will be issued, and the actual R&O will be released probably within a few days.

Reprinted with permission from The ARRL Letter, published by The American Radio Relay League, Newington, CT.



Metro Atlanta Club Meetings

First Tuesday

Metro Atlanta Telephone Pioneers

Old Hickory House

5490 Chamblee/Dunwoody Rd, Dunwoody
Dutch dinner is at 6:30 PM, followed by meeting.
Talk In 145.410(-)

Kennehoochee ARC

First United Methodist Church in Marietta
Meeting begins at 7:30 PM
Talk In 146.880(-)

First Thursday

Atlanta Radio Club

American Red Cross Building, Lindberg Plaza
Meeting is at 7:30 PM
Talk In -146.820(-)

N.E. Georgia ARC

Jefferson Civic Center
Off of Memorial Dr. toward Winder from Jefferson
Meeting is at 6:30 PM
Talk In - 147.225(+)

Second Wednesday

North Fulton Amateur Radio League

Ryan's Steak House
Alpharetta Highway (Hwy 9), Alpharetta
Dinner at 6:30 PM, meeting at 7:30 PM
Talk In - 145.47(-)

Second Thursday

Alford Memorial Radio Club

Killian Hall, Killian Hill Road
Lilburn
Dinner at 6:00 PM, meeting at 7:30 PM
Talk In - 146.760(-)

Second Saturday

East Atlanta LAN

St. Patrick's Episcopal Church
Dunwoody
Meeting is at 10:00 AM
Talk In - 145.410(-) and 443.025(+)

Third THURSDAY



Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society

Central Baptist Church
Gwinnett Drive
Lawrenceville

Meeting begins at 7:30 PM in the fellowship hall.
Talk In -147.075(+) and 444.525(+)

♦♦♦

Metro Atlanta VE Exam Schedule

GARS publishes Metro Atlanta area VE exam schedules as a service and is not responsible for errors or changes. Call and confirm schedules before going. All sessions are walk-in. Take copies of current license and certificate of completed elements with you to all sessions.

First Sunday

WCARS VEC

2:00 PM

(Except July and September)
Johnson High School
3305 Poplar Springs RD, Gainesville
Terry Jones, W4TL (770)967-6364

First Saturday

9:00AM

Clayton County Emergency
Management Building
7496 N. McDonough St., Jonesboro
George White, KN4NG (770)361-6850

Second Tuesday

7:00PM

Walton EMC
3645 Lenora Church Rd, Snellville
Wayne Taylor, WD4CCA
(770)498-7759

Second Saturday

CA VEC

8:30 AM
Stone Mountain Methodist Church
5312 West Mountain St.
Stone Mountain
Hal Martin, KI4RD
(770)978-9160

Third Saturday

CA VEC

9:00AM

Marietta First United Methodist Church
Room 305, 56 Whitlock Ave
Marietta
Larry Huff, WA4CQZ
(770)955-3171

Fourth Tuesday

ARRL VEC

7:00 PM

United Way Service Center
6279 Fairburn Road, Douglasville
Jessie Clower, KB4WFK
(770)942-6466.

Fourth Friday

W5YI VEC

7:00 PM

St. John Neumann Church
801 Tom Smith Road
Lilburn
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Howie Gould, W4NVF
(770)921-8362

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2 Meter Repeater
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82.5 PL

Main Repeater Site
Oak Street, Lawrenceville

Backup Repeater Site
Lanier Mountain, Snellville

Remote Receive Sites
Bogart Road, Buford
Goshen Springs Road, Norcross
Lanier Mountain, Snellville

70 Cm Repeater
444.525(+) MHz
82.5 PL

Main Repeater Site
Lanier Mountain, Snellville

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Goshen Springs Road, Norcross

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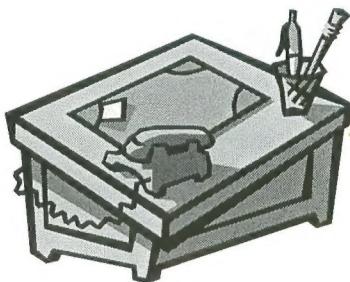
Dues Expires On 7/1/2000

From The Editor's Desk

By Ike Chapman, KE4GYM

I hope that someone out there is taking the time to consider taking over the position of newsletter editor. As I've said earlier, February, 2000 will be my last issue this time around. I intend to run for office again next year, no not President, David has indicated he's running again and I'll be glad to support him in that effort. With that in mind, I won't have the time necessary to put into doing the editor's job and hold down one of the officer's jobs (assuming my run is successful).

This is my second time around doing this job and I've enjoyed it just as much as this time. I've got a template that you can use to get you started. When I first took over the job from Dean, AD4OD during my first tenure as editor I did exactly that. I used Dean's layout template and methods to do the first



one or two issues. Once I got used to the routine, I switched over not only to my own layout to give it my own look and feel, but I also switched software packages from AmiPro to Microsoft Publisher. Since then I've used several versions of Publisher, the current newsletter is done using Publisher 2000.

This software makes the layout very easy once a template is put

together. Each page is filled with text frames that can be tied together or left to stand alone as needed. This makes continuing articles from one page to another, even if it's several pages away, as easy as clicking on one command.

While the job does take a good number of hours each month to produce what I consider to be a great looking newsletter (he said humbly), I have a great support team that makes it much easier to produce the newsletter. On the front end, there are the regular contributors, such as the club president and secretary, and Karl Phillips, K4GZZ with his monthly *On The Air* column. There are a good number of other contributors that will come up with articles on a regular basis if not monthly.

(Continued on page 8)